

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the Claims

The claims have been amended as follows:

20. (Amended) A method for affixing micro- and/or nano- non-liquid objects, which are contained in a liquid, onto a support, said method using a dispenser including a plurality of conically narrowing ducts having relatively wider inlets and relatively narrower outlets, wherein the ducts are, at least at their outlets, capillaries, wherein each of the outlets [are sized to] prevent passage of more than one of the non-liquid objects at a time, and wherein each of the plurality of ducts includes a portion of the liquid containing the non-liquid objects, said method comprising the steps of:

transporting the non-liquid objects in each of the plurality of ducts in the direction of the corresponding outlets until one non-liquid object emerges from each of the outlets;

positioning the outlets adjacent to the support;

dispensing [depositing] one non-liquid object from each of the outlets onto the support; and

affixing the [deposited] dispensed, non-liquid objects to the support.

22. (Amended) The method according to claim 20, wherein said steps of positioning, dispensing [depositing] and affixing take place in a simultaneous manner.

23. (Amended) The method according to claim 20, further comprising the step of:

adjusting the positioning of the objects on the support prior to said step of affixing the dispensed, non-liquid [deposited] objects to the support.

24. (Amended) The method according to claim 20, further comprising the step of:

covering the support with a chemically reactive layer, prior to said steps of dispensing [depositing] and affixing.

25. (Amended) The method according to claim 20, wherein said step of affixing includes electrostatically affixing the dispensed, non-liquid [deposited] objects to the support.

26. (Amended) The method according to claim 20, wherein said step of affixing includes photochemically affixing the dispensed, non-liquid [deposited] objects to the support.

27. (Amended) The method according to claim 20, wherein said step of affixing includes affixing [by micro-mechanical means] the dispensed, non-liquid [deposited] objects to the support by micro-mechanical means.

28. (Amended) The method according to claim 20, further comprising the step of:

magnetizing the non-liquid objects, prior to said step of dispensing [depositing], and wherein said step of affixing includes magnetically affixing the dispensed, non-liquid [deposited] objects to the support.

29. (Amended) The method according to claim 20, further comprising the step of:

covering the dispensed [deposited] and affixed non-liquid objects with a layer of gel.

30. (Amended) The method according to claim 20, wherein the non-liquid objects are charged electrostatically with a same polarity.

31. (Amended) The method according to claim 30, wherein the support is charged electrostatically with an opposite polarity relative to the non-liquid objects.

32. (Amended) The method according to claim 20, wherein the non-liquid objects dispersed in the liquid of one of the plurality of ducts are coated with a first type of biological-chemical active substance; and wherein the non-liquid objects dispersed in the liquid of another of the plurality of ducts are coated with a second and different type of biological-chemical active substance.

33. (Amended) The method according to claim 32, further comprising the step of:

detecting nucleotide sequences using the dispensed, non-liquid [deposited] objects.

34. (Amended) The method according to claim 33, wherein said step of detecting includes:

applying a test liquid to the dispensed, non-liquid [deposited] objects on the support; and

evaluating any chemical reactions which occur.

36. (Amended) An apparatus for fixing micro- and/or nano-, non-liquid objects, which are contained in a liquid onto a support, said apparatus comprising:

a positioning head including at least one depositing cell, said at least one depositing cell including a bundle-like arrangement of conically narrowing

ducts with relatively wider inlets and relatively narrower outlets, wherein the ducts are, at least at their outlets, capillaries, and wherein the outlets [are sized to] prevent passage of more than one of the non-liquid objects at a time, each duct [tube] capable of containing a portion of the liquid having a plurality of the non-liquid objects;

a support; and

at least one actuator for causing relative movement between said positioning cell and said support.